

Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, October 20, 1834, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Mexico City, October 20, 1834.

My dear Sir, I had the pleasure of receiving by Mr. Garesché your favor of July last, in which you grant me permission to return to the United States of which I shall gladly avail myself,¹ so soon as the affairs at present pending with this Government shall be disposed of. The subject which will perhaps create the greatest delay is the boundary Treaty; because as the Secretary in his instructions to me on that subject, has made the ratification of that Treaty by Mexico a prerequisite to its transmission to the U. States, I must abide the meeting of Congress which takes place on the 1st January ensuing; the ratification will be attended with no difficulty, and can consume but a few days, so that I shall be prepared to return in the January packet, unless about that time you should direct one of our sloops of War belonging to the Gulph squadron, to touch at Vera Cruz and receive me on board. I should myself very much prefer such a mode of conveyance, without asking the favor for my personal convenience *only*, but as I have very often heretofore recommended, that one of our Vessels of War should occasionally visit the Mexican Coast and touch at such Ports as have a sufficient depth of Water to permit their entrance, it is but a repetition of that recommendation, which you will of course adopt or reject at your pleasure.

¹ A letter from Butler to Jackson July 2, 1834, indicates that he had been ordered home. See also Jackson to Butler June 21, 1834 (p. 269, ante). In seeking to defend himself he

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attributed the action of the department to the efforts of his enemies. For Butler's career in Mexico see J. S. Reeves, *American Diplomacy under Tyler and Polk*, pp. 68–75.

From an expression used in your letter I consider it right to say, that I do not come home because “ *there is no prospect of succeeding in the principal object of the Mission*”. On the contrary there is a better prospect of success at this moment than has ever presented itself since my residence here, and I return principally for the purpose of submitting to your consideration certain facts, and to make certain statements, upon which should you and myself agree in opinion (as I cannot doubt but we shall) I will either return immediately or you may dispatch some other who I will pledge myself shall close the whole affair to your entire satisfaction in 90 days.

I know how much you are interested in a successful termination of this business. I am not less so, to it my whole energies have been devoted; I have tasked my industry, and employed all the address of which I am master to effect the object; it has never been lost sight of for a single moment, and I at length feel authorised in saying that all the principal difficulties have been vanquished, so that by a modification of my instructions, a modification in facts, which I am sure the Cabinet will consider not material as regards our interests, (but yet very material as it regards the success of the Negotiation) and the object will be effected at once. Upon the success of this Negotiation I feel the greatest anxiety, the most intense interest. I feel it as a patriot from the great benefit which I know the Country must derive from it; I feel it as your friend, believing that its successful termination will cap the climax of your public services, and that you will retire with the benediction of all honest men, and true friends to our Country: And I confess that I am not without selfish influences, believing that my own reputation will to a certain degree be identified with the advantages gained to the Country in the attainment of the object proposed. By reference to my private letters of 1832 you will be reminded of what passed between the Secretary of State for Mexico and myself on that subject, they shew that every thing was in the most promising state, when the events of that boisterous period drove Mr. Alaman from Office, and so destroyed an arrangement in the fairest train for successful accomplishment, and

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which I am certain would have ended as we desired, but for the untoward events referred to: Since that period I have had the worst sort of materials to work upon, and the greatest difficulties to encounter, it is all past, and we have now a new scene and very different performers.²

² The paragraph which follows was written in cipher, but the decoding has been added on the manuscript between the lines.

The former Secretary of State Mr. Alaman, after a concealment, has recently emerged from his hiding place with renewed and increased popularity and influence. Since his appearance, our intimacy has been renewed and we have spoken much upon the old subject of Texas. He maintains the same opinions which he expressed in 1832, and will coöperate with me in procuring a cession of that country to us. He considers it the best policy for Mexico, whether her pecuniary interests or her tranquillity be regarded. So that patriotically he may support the measure: whatever other motive may operate, if any, we need not inquire into .

It is to digest the plan of operations that I return, because it would be extremely difficult if not wholly impracticable to do so by a written correspondence, there are so many points to discuss in detail, so many questions, that it will become necessary to ask and to have answered, and so many explanations to make; that even were it practicable to settle so complicated an affair by writing, it would consume much more time than the visit will require, and therefore I shall come; and if after our interview and a full disclosure of facts and circumstances, you should incline to adopt my plan I will pledge myself on the result: it will all depend on the course you adopt. I may add³ *that the services of Alaman may be made equally useful whether he remains in Congress or holds the Department of State .*

³ See note 2.

Since the suppression of the insurrection of which Gen. Mexia was the military leader and the Vice President Gomez Farias was the head, those two worthies, have departed for

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the U. States, they may both or one of them attempt to seek your confidence: I caution you against them; they are both unprincipled men, and enemies at heart to the United States. In the last interview I Ever had with Gomez Farias whilst he remained at the head of this Government, he insulted me in the grossest manner, by direct and most calumnious imputations on the Government of the United States. Assure yourself that he did not escape from the attack with impunity, but I mention the circumstance not only as an evidence of his feelings towards our Country, but as proof of his claims to the character of a man of good breeding and a Gentleman. Mexia you will recollect as the man who was former Secretary of Legation to Col. Tornel, and of whom I presume you remember but little that is favorable to him.

In the hope to hear from you by the December packet from N. York, and which is the last before my leaving Mexico, I remain with best wishes for your health and prosperity

Most respectfully